

App. Ser. No. 09/884,953  
Atty. Dkt. No. 016800-448

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An isolated, substantially pure polypeptide fragment of a cathepsin L type cysteine protease present in healthy stratum corneum having a cathepsin L type cysteine protease activity and an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 25 to 30 kilodaltons;

~~wherein the polypeptide fragment has a cathepsin L type cysteine protease activity.~~

11. (previously presented) The polypeptide fragment as defined by Claim 10, obtained via proteolysis of said cathepsin L type cysteine protease.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated, substantially pure cathepsin L type cysteine protease present in healthy stratum corneum on polypeptide fragment thereof having cathepsin L type cysteine protease activity, wherein said protease or polypeptide fragment thereof ~~has having~~ an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 25-30 kilodaltons, ~~or polypeptide fragment thereof having cathepsin L type cysteine protease activity;~~

formulated into physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

14. (previously presented) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, comprising from about 0.00001% to 50% by weight of said cathepsin L type cysteine protease or polypeptide fragment thereof.

15. (previously presented) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 14, comprising from about 0.001% to 10% by weight of said cathepsin L type cysteine protease or polypeptide fragment thereof.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim ~~16~~ 13, further comprising at least one protease activity enhancer, said at least one protease activity enhancer comprising glycerol, urea or derivative thereof, transglutaminase, EDTA, reducing agent, or combination thereof.

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18. (currently amended) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim ~~16~~ 17, comprising from about 0.00001% to 15% by weight of said at least one protease activity enhancer.

19. (previously presented) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 18, comprising from about 0.0001% to 10% by weight of said at least one protease activity enhancer.

20-27. (canceled)

28. (original) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, further comprising at least one active agent selected from among antibacterial, antiparasitic, antifungal, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, antipruritic, anaesthetic, keratolytic, anti-free-radical, antiseborrhoeic, antidandruff, and anti-acne agents, and/or agents reducing skin differentiation and/or proliferation and/or pigmentation.

29. (original) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, formulated as a solution, dispersion, emulsion, lotion, cream, gel, milk, serum, syrup, foam, soap, cake, shampoo, toothpaste, microcapsules, microparticles or vesicular dispersion of ionic and/or nonionic type.

30. (original) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, formulated as capsules, granules or tablets.

31. (original) The cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition as defined by Claim 13, further comprising at least one hydrophilic or lipophilic gelling agent, hydrophilic or lipophilic additive or adjuvant, preservative, antioxidant, solvent, perfume, filler, screening agent, odor absorber, colorant, or combination thereof.

32-33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the healthy stratum corneum is mammalian stratum corneum.

35. (previously presented) The composition of Claim 34, wherein the mammalian stratum corneum is human stratum corneum.

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36. (new) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the cysteine protease has an isoelectric point ranging from 6 to 9.

37. (new) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the cysteine protease exhibits activity at a pH ranging from 2 to 9.

38. (new) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the cysteine protease exhibits activity at a pH ranging from 3.5 to 6.5.

39. (new) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the cysteine protease exhibits activity at a pH ranging from 4 to 6.25.

40. (new) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the cysteine protease exhibits optimal activity at a pH ranging from 5 to 5.5.

41. (new) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the cysteine protease possesses a molecular weight of about 28 kilodaltons.

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